



United States  
National Commission on  
Libraries and Information Science

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**NCLIS ORIENTATION MEETING**  
**March 22-24, 1994**  
**Atlanta, Georgia**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Shirley Gray Adamovich; Daniel W. Casey;  
Carol K. DiPrete; Martha B. Gould; Norman Kelson;  
Frank J. Lucchino; Kay W. Riddle; Bobby L. Roberts;  
Gary N. Sudduth; Elinor H. Swaim, (Vice Chairman);  
Winston Tabb; Barbara J. H. Taylor; Robert S. Willard;  
and Jeanne Hurley Simon, Presiding Chairperson

**STAFF PRESENT:** Peter R. Young, Executive Director;  
Mary Alice Hedge-Reszetar, Associate Executive  
Director; Jane Williams, Research Associate;  
John G. Lorenz, Library Statistics Program; Kim Miller,  
Administrative Assistant; and Barbara L. Whiteleather,  
Special Assistant and Recording Secretary

**OBSERVERS PRESENT:** Joe Forsee, Director, Public Library Services,  
Georgia Department of Education (official COSLA  
representative); Mary Keelan, Senior Consultant, the  
John D. and Catherine G. MacArthur Foundation,  
Poughkeepsie, New York; Charles E. Beard, American  
Library Association, Executive Board and Past Co-Chair,  
WHCLIST Steering Committee; Charles Benton, NCLIS  
Chairman Emeritus, President, Benton Foundation, and  
CEO of Public Media, Inc., Evanston, Illinois



## Tuesday, March 22, 1994

Mrs. Jeanne Hurley Simon, NCLIS Chairperson, called the NCLIS Orientation Meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. She expressed her sincere appreciation and thanks to Vice Chairman Swaim for her valuable service prior to the President's appointment of a Chairperson. Mrs. Swaim replied, "It was challenging and fun, and I had wonderful direction from our staff."

Mrs. Simon welcomed the Commissioners, staff, and guests, and stated, "I have looked forward to this meeting since I was confirmed as NCLIS Chairperson by the Senate on November 22, 1993, at 9:30 p.m. With five new Commissioners on board, this Commission will be similar to the beginning of a new Congress. I am impressed with the range of the Commission's mission as outlined in Public Law 91-345, the law which established the Commission in 1970."

At Mrs. Simon's suggestion, Commissioners presented brief statements summarizing what they would like to see as goals for the Commission.

- **Martha Gould**, Director, Washoe County Library, Reno, Nevada --  
NCLIS has a unique leadership role in establishing national information policy. Access, confidentiality, and copyright are the types of policy and planning issues that this Commission should address and which fall within the scope of our law. These are the reasons that explain why I wanted to become a Member of NCLIS!
- **Gary Sudduth**, Minneapolis Urban League, Minneapolis, Minnesota --  
I hope this Commission can act toward establishing a national policy that demands that libraries be empowered to become everything they can to everybody. They are of tremendous importance. This is one of the last grand institutions that can do so much for so many, and we should take advantage of this opportunity. Libraries are failing to reach the most needy who should not be hitchhikers on the information highway. I have a propensity to ask questions, when in doubt, and I look forward to Commission discussion and debate.
- **Shirley Adamovich**, Former New Hampshire State Librarian and New Hampshire Commissioner of Cultural Affairs, Durham, New Hampshire -- NCLIS Member since 1991 --  
NCLIS can play an important role in making libraries a safety-net for the people. The library is the people's university -- no other institution really serves this purpose. Many people are unaware of the library's role regarding the National Information Infrastructure (NII). Federal legislation is critical, despite its complexity, and we ought to be on the agenda whenever library legislation is thought of or when hearings are held. We must educate librarians and think in terms of LSCA.

- **Barbara Taylor**, Germantown, Maryland. NCLIS Member since 1985 --  
NCLIS needs to become more involved in the global information network and to work very closely with the Commerce Department's NII Advisory Council to determine how NCLIS can program cooperatively. We need to develop firm information policy on the NII and work with other Nations in trying to eliminate barriers.
- **Winston Tabb**, Associate Librarian for Collection Services, Library of Congress. Serving for the Librarian of Congress since 1990 --  
It is critical that NCLIS has a role in national policy development. NCLIS and the Library of Congress are complementary and are not in competition. There is a real credibility issue on follow-through of the recommendations from the 1991 White House Conference on Library and Information Services. NCLIS should take seriously the work done by the WHCLIS Delegates and work to make the recommendations from the WHCLIS a reality.
- **Kay Riddle**, Denver, Colorado. NCLIS Member since 1991 --  
The Commission should act as a clearinghouse, sharing solutions and information, and assuring that no one is reinventing the wheel.
- **Daniel Casey**, NCLIS Member from 1973 to 1978 and reappointed for five-year terms in 1984 and 1989 --  
NCLIS needs to: (1) respond to the needs of the elderly, (2) follow up on Native American Report; and (3) devote more effort to public information regarding the good work of NCLIS. Get the message out to the libraries and to the general public!
- **Norman Kelinson**, President, Universal Financial Services, Davenport, Iowa. NCLIS Member since 1991 --  
Endorsed every word spoken by others, and added that NCLIS has an obligation to the citizens of the United States to give them the best library services possible. The public should be better informed about NCLIS -- what we do, who we are, what our aim is. We must raise the Commission's visibility.
- **Frank Lucchino**, Controller, County of Allegheny, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania --  
NCLIS provides a national perspective on library development and should be better known in the library communities. Personal great interest in the areas of library services to the disadvantaged and NII. Why is NCLIS not the nucleus of Information Infrastructure Task Force issues?
- **Carol DiPrete**, Dean for Academic Services, Roger Williams University, Bristol, Rhode Island. NCLIS Member since 1990 --  
It is important for NCLIS to debate which information policy issues to address. We need to focus on the issue of the information haves and have nots, especially in the NII area.

- **Bobby Roberts**, Director, Central Arkansas Library System, Little Rock, Arkansas -- NCLIS can provide the perspective for all sides of an issue. The role of the NII needs to be carefully developed. It is an inherently political issue. Public libraries have fared pretty well up till now...but support for academic/school libraries is not as great. There are fundamental changes in the policy development process, with non-elected people more directly involved with issues through voter initiatives. NCLIS must learn how to be effective within the new political dynamics.
- **Vice Chairman Elinor Swaim**, Salisbury, North Carolina. NCLIS Member since 1989 --  
It is my firm conviction that NCLIS has not spoken loudly enough or been forceful enough in the past. These are exciting times, and we have before us great opportunities for the future, despite the fiscal constraints.
- **Robert Willard**, Director, Government Marketing, Mead Data Central, Inc., Dayton, Ohio --  
Becoming part of this Commission is based on respect for the agency and the confidence that great things can be achieved. I attended all of the Commission meetings in the early 1980s as an observer, and becoming a Member is a great, personal event for me. I am looking forward to great things!

Chairperson Simon also asked John Lorenz to say a few words from the perspective as a former NCLIS member:

- **John Lorenz**, Former Deputy Librarian of Congress (served for Dr. Mumford, 1970-75), Acting NCLIS Executive Director, July - August 1990, and currently NCLIS Consultant and Coordinator for the Library Statistics Program --  
Libraries are the basic foundation of democracy. They provide access to information and support personal growth. The federal grant program is essential for continued growth and development. I think of the NII not as a threat but as a challenge and an opportunity for further growth of public library service. Libraries are the connecting link between the new technology and the continued availability of information. This is an important time for the Commission to reach its maximum potential, and the challenge is great. NCLIS needs to speak louder!
- **Jeanne Hurley Simon**, NCLIS Chairperson, and Member of the 1979 White House Conference on Library and Information Services --  
We are going to speak loudly and carry a big stick. People need to know about NCLIS, and we need a more visible presence. This year's focus will be on NCLIS' 25th year anniversary in 1995 and implementing the WHCLIS recommendations. Consultation between NCLIS and the Department of Education needs improving, and we must bridge this gap. It is my solemn oath to keep the spirit going!

## **Review of Orientation Meeting Schedule**

Commissioners reviewed the orientation meeting agenda including the following topics:

1. Discussion of Commissioners' backgrounds and concerns;
2. Discussion of NCLIS' mission, functions, and history;
3. Review of the *NCLIS Administrative Manual*;
4. Review of NCLIS operational issues;
5. Briefings and discussion of the following topics:
  - A. Federal information dissemination policy
  - B. Libraries, literacy, and educational reform
  - C. NCLIS international program activities
  - D. NCLIS Library Statistics Program
  - E. Economics of Library Support and LSCA Reauthorization
  - E. Libraries and information superhighways
6. Discussions of NCLIS planning activities.

Mr. Young reported that this meeting was planned and scheduled to coincide with the Public Library Association's Fifth National Conference in Atlanta, 22-26 March 1994 to allow Commissioners to participate in the PLA Conference and to attend the NCLIS program on public libraries and the Internet.

Since November 1993, NCLIS staff has concentrated on briefing Chairperson Simon on the work of the National Commission, past and present, to bring her quickly up to date on NCLIS activities, programs, and plans. In addition, since November Mrs. Simon has met with more than 34 individuals representing key federal agencies, associations, and organizations with policy and program responsibilities related to the NCLIS statutory functions. Examples of these include meetings with Dr. Jim Billington, Librarian of Congress; Trudy Peterson, the Acting Archivist of the United States; Dr. Hardy Franklin, Director, District of Columbia Public Library and President, American Library Association; Tom Kalil, Director, National Economic Council, Office of Economic Policy; Gov. Madeline Kunin, Deputy Secretary of Education; Donald Lindberg, Director, National Library of Medicine; Dr. Marci Greenwood, Associate Director for Science, Office of Science and Technology Policy; and David Barram, Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

Mr. Young noted that one copy of every NCLIS publication/report since 1970 (except the WHCLIS reports), including NCLIS Annual Reports from 1970-1992, was on display in the meeting room. Copies of reports are available upon request. Mr. Young

also covered arrangements for: (a) the reception hosted by the Friends of the Atlanta-Fulton County Public Library at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 23; and (b) the PLA Power Breakfast at 7:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 24, to hear Mrs. Simon's keynote speech on "*Power, Leadership, and Political Reality*." The Members were also invited to attend PLA's program on the Preliminary Report on the NCLIS Survey of Public Libraries and the Internet, presented by Mrs. Simon, Dr. Chuck McClure, NCLIS Distinguished Researcher, and Dr. Douglas Zweizig, University of Wisconsin-Madison, from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. on Thursday. Mr. Young noted that PLA graciously offered the Commissioners and staff a one-day complimentary Conference registration.

Mrs. Simon announced that she had decided to postpone election of Vice Chairman, Executive Committee Member and alternate, and NCLIS committee appointments until after the next NCLIS meeting, which will be a planning meeting, possibly in June or July.

### ALA Annual Breakfast

The annual American Library Association Executive Board and NCLIS breakfast will be held on Saturday, June 25, in Miami, Florida. Further details will be forthcoming from the staff.

### WHCLIS Recommendations Analysis Reports

Members were asked to review the following reports in preparation for Thursday's discussion. Plans call for NCLIS publication and distribution of these commissioned papers.

1. Toward a Just and Productive Society, prepared by Kathleen McCook, Director, Division of Library and Information Science, University of South Florida.
2. The National Information Infrastructure and the Recommendations of the 1991 WHCLIS, by R. Taylor Walsh Washington Information Services Corp.
3. "Snapshot and Summary of Actions Taken Toward Implementing the 96 Recommendations and Petitions in the Nine Areas of Major Concern of the 1991 WHCLIS" by Mary Alice Hedge-Reszetar, NCLIS Associate Executive Director.

### Executive Director's Report

The NCLIS Executive Director's Report, dated 22 March 1994, was included in the NCLIS meeting folder. The report covered:

- Survey of NCLIS Members' Priorities -- The results of a survey ranking Commissioners priority interest in seven different program areas. The rankings resulted in the following order of priority, from highest to lowest priority:
  1. Libraries, literacy, and educational reform (Average 2.1)
  2. Libraries and the National Information Infrastructure (Average 2.4)
  3. Library Services and Construction Act reauthorization (Average 4.1)
  4. Economics of library support (Average 4.6)
  5. Federal information dissemination policy (Average 4.9)
  6. Public/Private sector relationships (Average 5.2)
  7. Library education and training (Average 5.5)

Other suggestions offered by Commissioners for consideration included:

- a. International library and information activities
  - b. Public information and public affairs
  - c. Library and informational needs of elderly persons
  - d. Economics of information -- "Who pays?"
- Public Library Association National Conference
  - NCLIS Activities and Programs Since the November 1993 Meeting, including:
    1. Forums on Children and Youth Services
    2. Survey of School Library Media Centers
    3. Survey of Public Libraries and the Internet
    4. Columbia University Graduate Public Policy Seminar Project
    5. Library Statistics program (LSP)
    6. Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) Reauthorization
    7. International Activities and Program
  - NCLIS Budget
  - Observations about Future Programs and Activities
  - Selected Meetings, Conferences, and Other Activities, November 11, 1993 -- March 18, 1994

## **NCLIS Mission, Functions, and History**

Commissioner Casey and Ms. Hedge-Reszetar presented a brief overview of the Commission's mission, functions, and history. Highlights included:

- On December 2, 1966, President Johnson established by Executive Order a National Advisory Commission on Libraries. The Advisory Committee presented a report on October 15, 1968, which included eight recommendations, one of which was to establish a permanent, independent agency to advise the President and the Congress

on library and information science policy. President signed Public Law 91-345 on July 20, 1970 establishing the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science.

- The Commission's logo, which is on NCLIS letterhead, envelopes, pins, and annual reports, is an abstract representation of the Commission's goal of equal opportunity of access to information for all citizens through interconnecting services and a central core of information.

Discussion leader Vice Chairman Swaim stated that she continues to be impressed with the Commission's charge by P.L. 91-345, which is broad and well prepared. Of particular importance is:

"SEC. 5.(a)(2) conduct studies, surveys, and analyses of the library and informational needs of the Nation, including the special library and informational needs of rural areas, of economically, socially, or culturally deprived persons, and of elderly persons, and the means by which these needs may be met through information centers, through the libraries of elementary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education, and through public, research, special, and other types of libraries;"....

Discussion leader Gould asked, "How can NCLIS be more obvious and make an impact on the library profession? How do we leap from talking to implementation? It is fine to publish reports, but we need to make an impact and become more obvious."

Commissioner Adamovich responded, "NCLIS should take a position on federal legislation and be more effective in providing advice and keep a very sharp track of all legislation and make sure that libraries are specifically mentioned." Commissioner DiPrete reiterated the Commission's primary function -- "To advise the President and Congress on the implementation of national policy...." and called for the Commission to define "national policy." Mr. Young pointed out that the Commission does not make policy, rather NCLIS advises, not on policy, but on the implementation of policy. This is a step removed both from making policy and from implementing policy.

Commissioner Lucchino quoted from P.L. 91-345:

"SEC 2. The Congress hereby affirms that library and information services adequate to meet the needs of the people of the United States are essential to achieve national goals and to utilize most effectively the Nation's educational resources and that the Federal government will cooperate with State and local governments and public and private agencies in assuring optimum provision of such services."

Commissioner Lucchino stated, "With this broad statement, the Congress, in effect, gave NCLIS the go-ahead to do whatever they perceive to be necessary, and we should proceed. I'm very excited about this discussion. We are only limited by our own



perception of ourselves, and if we perceive ourselves as being leaders, the rest of the library world will perceive us to be that too. Then we get what we deserve."

Ms. Hedge-Reszetar pointed out that Libraries at Large, which includes the Report of the National Advisory Commission on Libraries, included the following recommendations, in addition to the establishment of NCLIS:

- Recognition and strengthening of the role of the Library of Congress as the **national** library of the United States and establishment of a Board of Advisers.
- Establishment of a Federal Institute of Library and Information Science as a principal center for basic and applied research in all relevant areas.
- Recognition and full acceptance of the critically important role the U.S. Office of Education currently plays in meeting needs of library services.
- Strengthening State library agencies to overcome deficiencies in fulfilling their current function.

Discussion centered around the importance of the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) and the development of a reauthorization act. Commissioner Gould called for the Commission to make the reauthorization of LSCA a top priority.

Commissioner Taylor stated, "Now that we have a strong Chairperson who spends a great deal of time in Washington, DC, and now that our appropriation has increased, we should be able to make greater accomplishments." Commissioner Tabb added, "We need to collectively decide on which programs we want to finish, e.g., hearings on the Internet, the Native American Report, etc. We need to come to closure!"

Commissioner Adamovich agreed and suggested that the Commission decide on two or three programs they wish to undertake and do them well.

Mr. Young referenced a comment included in the Executive Director's Report, page 11, 3rd paragraph, which states:

"In general, the Commission's most successful programs have concentrated on a very few specific problems involving national and global public policy concerns that are consistent with NCLIS statutory functions. These problem areas involve clear opportunities for NCLIS to exert a leadership role amid a complex of many different competing and conflicting interests. In developing a process for developing Commission program plans for priority topics, it is essential that these plans clearly spell out the Commission's goals and objectives, and clearly identify what event or outcome would constitute closure on that particular issue. Failure to spell out what constitutes achievement of the NCLIS program objective will detract from the Commission's ability to focus attention on activities that have a clear and identifiable benefit for the Nation."

Returning to the discussion of the Commission's background and history, it was suggested that the 50-plus previous Commissioners are an untapped resource. It was pointed out that the staff often contacts previous Commissioners when meeting in their States, they remain on the NCLIS mailing list for all press releases and publications, and they are, of course, invited to all major NCLIS functions, i.e., NCLIS anniversary celebrations, and the two White House Conferences. It was agreed, however, that there would be more concerted efforts for follow through and additional involvement.

## **Approval of Minutes**

### **MOTION**

Moved by Daniel Casey, seconded by Elinor Swaim, that the draft minutes of the NCLIS meeting, November 8 and 9, 1993, be approved as submitted.

The motion passed unanimously.

## **NCLIS Administrative Matters**

**Compensation, travel expenses** -- Kim Miller, NCLIS Administrative Assistant, quoted from P.L. 91-345:

"SEC 6. (b) Members of the Commission who are not in the regular full-time employ of the United States shall, while attending meetings or conferences of the Commission or otherwise engaged in the business of the Commission, be entitled to receive compensation at a rate fixed by the Chairman, but not exceeding the rate specified at the time of such service for grade GS-18 in section 5332 of title 5, U.S. Code, including travel time and while so serving on the business of the Commission away from their house or regular places of business, they may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by section 5703 of title 5, U.S. Code, for persons employed intermittently in the Government service."

The current salary rate is \$225.00 per day. The current mileage reimbursement rate for personal automobile travel is at .25 cents per mile. At the Chairperson's request, NCLIS staff will check with the Office of General Counsel, U.S. Department of Education, to obtain official ruling for those Member's who do not wish to receive (or are prohibited from accepting) salary for their service on the Commission. The guidelines for Commissioner travel, expenses, and salary are included in the NCLIS Administrative Manual under Tab S.

Mrs. Miller stated that the federal government no longer provides pre-paid airline tickets. Rather, employees are encouraged to join the American Express Government

**Travel Payment Program.** The traveler is personally responsible for the American Express Card payment for all travel done in connection with NCLIS official functions. However, with prompt filing of travel expense reports to the NCLIS office, reimbursement should be received prior to receiving the American Express bill. A signed copy of the Travel Authorization (ED Form 202) is necessary to obtain the government discount fare. Omega World Travel is the current contractor for the NCLIS government travel. After obtaining NCLIS approval, the traveler receives a signed Travel Authorization. After receiving the authorization, Members should contact a representative from Omega (202) 484-7900 or 1-800-486-9740 (FAX 202 863-9695) to make travel reservations. Copies of the American Express application and agreement will be sent to all Commissioners upon their confirmation by the Senate.

**Unconfirmed Commissioners** (appointed but unconfirmed) may participate in Commission meetings and other Commission activities (without vote), and their travel expenses only will be reimbursed by the Commission. The Commission will not pay for travel and related expenses to confirmation hearings.

**Government Ethics Training and Identification Cards --** Staff will arrange for the required government ethics training and identification badges upon Member confirmation.

**NCLIS Logo Pins --** The supply of NCLIS logo pins is exhausted. Staff was directed to obtain information for reordering the original NCLIS logo pin. The funds for the pins must come from private sources and not from federally appropriated funds.

**NCLIS Business Cards --** NCLIS Members may wish to order NCLIS business cards at their own expense. Bethesda Engravers, Bethesda, Maryland (Baltimore office: 410-633-1891, has engraved the cards in the past (with gold eagle) at a reasonable rate. Commissioner Taylor offered advice in obtaining business cards.

**NCLIS Commission Documents and Information Documents --** All correspondence from the NCLIS office to Commissioners is identified by either Commission Document (CD) or Information Document (ID) with a chronological number for each calendar year. As an example, CD #94-01 indicates that it is the first Commission Document issued in 1994. Commission Documents require Commission review and response. Information Documents are strictly informational and require no specific response.

**NCLIS Administrative Manual --** Barbara Whiteleather, NCLIS Special Assistant, reviewed the contents of the manual, covering the Commission's establishment, legislative history, mission, accomplishments, highlights, membership, committees, staff, and additional administrative matters.

## **Federal Information Dissemination Policy**

**Statement** -- *The Commission should devote priority attention to improving access to federal information resources and services. NCLIS should devote priority attention to issues related to the implementation of the Government Printing Office (GPO) Electronic Information Enhancement Act (P.L. 103-40), to work on a Government Information Locator Service (GILS), and to those provisions of HR 3400 which propose a transfer of certain GPO information dissemination functions to the Library of Congress and to the executive branch.*

Chairperson Simon and Mr. Young have met with both GPO Public Printer, Michael F. DiMario (and toured the Government Printing Office), and Don Johnson, Director, National Technical Information Service (NTIS). After discussing federal information resources and services, and proposals for reform, reinvention, and reorganization, GPO and NTIS provided copies of correspondence related to policies for dissemination of federal documents and publications. Mrs. Simon reported that the GPO has approximately 4,000 employees and is working to comply with statutory requirements for the electronic distribution of public information. She discussed the need to disseminate federal information effectively, whether electronically or in print, and noted that there is disagreement on how to best manage the transition to network access.

Presenter Winston Tabb called attention to the *Principles of Public Information*, adopted by NCLIS on June 29, 1990, which states, in part that

"NCLIS, therefore, reaffirms that the information policies of the U.S. government are based on the freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution, and on the recognition of public information as a national resource to be developed and preserved in the public interest. We define **public information** as information created, compiled and/or maintained by the federal government. We assert that public information is information owned by the people, held in trust by their government, and should be available to the people except where restricted by law."

Although all of the eight points included in the NCLIS Principles of Public Information are important, Mr. Tabb noted that the following three bear particular importance on this topic:

(3) ***The Federal government should guarantee the dissemination, reproduction, and redistribution of public information.*** Any restriction of dissemination or any other function dealing with public information must be strictly defined by law.

(7) ***The Federal government should ensure that information about government information is easily available and in a single index accessible in***

*a variety of formats.* The government index of public information should be in addition to inventories of information kept within individual government agencies.

(8) *The Federal government should guarantee the public's access to public information, regardless of where they live and work, through national networks and programs like the Depository Library Program.* Government agencies should periodically review such programs as well as the emerging technology to ensure that access to public information remains inexpensive and convenient to the public.

**H.R. 3400 – Government Reform and Savings Act of 1993** -- Mr. Tabb stated that the Library of Congress was not aware of plans to introduce H.R. 3400 prior to the bill's introduction on October 28, 1993, by Rep. Gephardt and referred jointly to most of the Committees in the House. The bill is wide-ranging, starting with Title I, Department of Agriculture. Title XIV is "Reinventing Support Services: Government Information Dissemination and Printing Improvement Act of 1993." On November 22, the last day of the Congressional session, the House approved an amended H.R. 3400 that retains all GPO printing and depository functions within the legislative branch, rather than placing its functions in the executive branch, as proposed in the original legislative language. The House-approved version of the bill called for executive agencies' authority to perform their own printing and transferred Superintendent of Documents functions to the Library of Congress.

Mr. Tabb noted that H.R. 3400 has caused conflict and turf battles in which all federal agencies, including the Library of Congress, have an acute interest. "It would be extremely useful for the community at large, for the Commission to step in as an honest broker and make recommendations on how best to handle these functions. What we all really care about is that government information is disseminated in the best way possible, at the least cost possible, to the people in need, and in the form needed. This basic ideal is why we go back to the *Principles of Public Information*," he stated.

Commissioner Willard cited four points made by Congressman Charles Rose (NC), Chairman, House Administration Committee, and keynote speaker at a FEDLINK Forum, March 21, 1993: (1) Any data acquired by the taxpayer's money belongs to the people and citizens shouldn't have to pay twice for that data; (2) Under our current budgetary climate, the federal government does not have the means to transfer all the data it owns into useful information; (3) Technology is changing so rapidly that it is very difficult to plan for the future; and (4) It is important that we not leave behind any ordinary citizen who cannot afford to travel on the information highway.

Referring to Congressman Rose's first point, Commissioner Roberts stated, "The truth is that the documents are not free. It costs to house them in the building, for heat, air conditioning, insurance, staffing assistance, and shelving space. A documents librarian has to be hired, plus an assistant. It's not really free! There is no such thing as a free

library. Somebody is paying for it somewhere; it just depends on your interpretation. I do believe that dollars can be saved by competition, and I hope the Commission can take a position on this national policy issue which has great consequences for libraries."

After a lengthy discussion on information dissemination, electronic access, and depository libraries, Commissioner DiPrete emphasized the importance the National Information Infrastructure plays in this regard and asked, "What is appropriate access to government information? This is very, very basic national information policy." Mr. Tabb agreed and stated the need for rigorous financial analyses. Ms. Hedge-Reszetar reminded the Members that there are several WHCLIS recommendations on this topic.

The following additional background material on Federal Information Dissemination Policy was included in the *NCLIS Briefing Book*, Tab C: (1) article from the *FID News Bulletin*, Vol. 43 (1993), Issue 9 (September), by Toni Carbo Bearman, Chair, FID, "A View of Information Policy in the United States", (2) correspondence between GPO and NTIS regarding the transfer by federal agencies of scientific, technical and engineering information to NTIS, and (3) P.L. 103-40, "Government Printing Office Electronic Information Access Enhancement Act of 1993", dated June 8, 1993, and the National Technical Information Service.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

### **Wednesday, March 23, 1994**

Chairperson Simon called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. She expressed her delight with yesterday's meeting, which she called "very productive with refreshing dialogue and input."

### **NCLIS Operational Issues**

#### **Spending Plan for FY 1984 for NCLIS Appropriation**

Presenter Norman Kelson reviewed the 1994 spending plan. He noted, in particular, that due to NCLIS' office relocation in April 1993, the office space rental payment has increased significantly (by \$42,000). Jane Williams pointed out that 3 or 4 major items in the budget take up 90 to 95% of the total appropriation, i.e., (1) personnel compensation and benefits; (2) travel; (3) rent; and (4) other mandatory expenses. Commissioners were reminded that all requests for activities other than attendance at regularly scheduled Commission meetings must be submitted for approval to Chairperson Simon in writing prior to the event or activity.

From 1970 to August 14, 1991, NCLIS had a statutory ceiling of \$750,000 imposed on all annual appropriations. On August 14, 1991, P.L. 102-95, the *NCLIS Technical*

*Amendments of 1991*, removed that cap. Since that time, OMB has limited NCLIS' appropriation request. For FY 1994, our \$1.5 million request to OMB was reduced to a request to Congress for \$904,000. The FY 1995 request submitted to OMB was \$1.35 million, but OMB sent a level-funding appropriation request of \$904,000 for FY 1995 to Congress.

Discussion centered around operational issues such as: (1) the possibility of additional funding from private organizations and foundations, including those foundations and organizations which supported WHCLIS I and II with contributions; (2) the need for an additional staff person who would assume responsibility for developing a public relations program; (3) telephone conference call meetings; (4) obtaining E-mail access through academic libraries or other Internet commercial services; and (5) the possibility of changing NCLIS' administrative services from the Department of Education. to the General Services Administration.

Commissioners Gould and Roberts agreed that foundation funding is not only interesting, it is possible, especially if a request were developed for a specific purpose or plan of action; and not to just perform another study. Commissioner Roberts suggested selecting one or two issues (LSCA reauthorization; federal information dissemination, National Information Infrastructure) and approach foundations for program support. Staff was asked to continue investigating these possibilities and to report progress at the next NCLIS meeting.

Commissioner Lucchino asked, "Do we ever take a position on a specific issue and then notify the President and Congress? Do we have a relationships with the relative Committee Chairs in the House and Senate?" Chairperson Simon responded, "We have a very direct relationship with the appropriate Senators, Congress Members, staff, subcommittees, and committees and have been meeting with them regularly. Our last meeting was with David V. Evans, Chief Counsel to Senator Claiborne Pell, who chairs the Senate Subcommittee with oversight responsibility for LSCA authorization. Mr. Evans wanted to know the Commission's views about LSCA reauthorization strategy and specifically requested NCLIS' continuing input and advice. And, we have to respond. I do not, however, think we give advice often enough. I think, in the future, we should be succinct. In order to do that, we have to meet, get together, and have telephone conference calls, so that we can speak with one mind!"

Commissioner Lucchino stated that he has been overwhelmed with the volume of papers and documents received since his nomination to the Commission in November 1993 -- much more than from any other commission and/or board on which he has served. "If you send those same thick reports on an issue to the President and Members of Congress and you expect that they or their assistants will read them, you are mistaken. Can this material be abbreviated?", he asked. He also recommended that staff correspond by E-mail whenever possible. This suggestion was well received, and the addresses for Commissioners with E-mail will be added to the official *NCLIS*

*Register*. Mr. Young pointed out that the cost of connecting all Commissioners and staff to the Internet would be obtained.

Commissioner Willard requested briefer reports and suggested video taped briefings, using the Senate and House cable network, and perhaps summarize information in hypertext format, etc. "If we are to be the advisers on information science, we ought to be using the technology," he urged. Commissioner Gould agreed and added that the Commissioners themselves have excellent relationships with various Senators and Congressmen, and that nothing beats personal contact with policy makers. "How many Congressmen have access to E-mail?. If we use the latest technology to correspond with them, we are letting them know, 'We are there; where are you?'" she suggested. Mr. Tabb further recommended that executive summary-type papers (a single-page message; a simple plan) be prepared for the President and Congress, stating facts and findings on relevant issues.

Commissioner Gould explained another new technology-assisted strategic planning process --the Hexagon Process, a technique used in lieu of facilitators and/or flip charts. She stated that it is a fascinating procedure which clarifies the planning and boils it down very quickly to the substance. She offered to provide staff with information on the Hexagon Process.

Included in the *NCLIS Briefing Book*, Tab D, were copies of: (1) the FY 1994 Spending Plan, (2) Fiscal Statements for 1993 and 1994; (3) "The Budget System and Concepts of the U.S. Government"; (4) "Skating on the Hard Freeze", by Lawrence J. Haas, Government Executive, February 1994; (5) Creating a Government that Works Better and Costs Less, Executive Summary, The Report of the National Performance Review; and (6) NCLIS Streamlining Plan.

### NCLIS Official Liaisons

Commissioner Willard has offered to serve as the designated NCLIS liaison to the NII Advisory Council to the Information Infrastructure Task Force (IITF), at no expense to the Commission, and to report back with substance. It was recommended that there be a process developed for requesting to be a NCLIS liaison, and that the Commission vote on each of the requests to make them official. Additional specific organizations for establishment of official NCLIS liaisons mentioned in discussion were:

- American Association of Law Librarians (Willard)
- WHCLIST (Casey)
- Literacy Volunteers of American (Taylor)

Commissioners discussed the need for a listing of possible NCLIS liaisons. Commissioners were asked to provide Mr. Young with a list of their current memberships in library and information science-related agencies, associations, organizations, and/or groups. Commissioner Taylor pointed out that Commissioners



have served, and continue to serve, as official liaisons to related library and information science agencies, associations, organizations, and/or groups. At Chairperson Simon's request, staff will develop an updated list of known liaison activity for Commission review and comment. [Attachment I: Memo from Mr. Young to NCLIS Members, dated April 1, 1991, outlining various organizations to which NCLIS had previous liaisons and requesting Members to indicate additional groups and their interest in serving as liaison.]

It was noted that NCLIS Members' volunteer time spent on Commission-related activities should be recorded and reported to Congress. That way, Congress can readily see the amount of volunteer time Commissioners contribute and thus demonstrate the need for additional funding that is needed to carry on the important work of the Commission.

### **Libraries, Literacy, and Educational Reform**

*Statement -- The Commission should devote priority attention to implementation of the 1991 WHCLIS recommendations concerning library and information services for children and youth, the outcomes from the three regional forums held in 1993, the recommendations from the 1989 work on information literacy, and on the issue of library roles in support of literary services. NCLIS should devote priority attention to school and public library services for children and youth in support of the National Education Goals and Goals 2000: Educate America Act.*

Presenter Adamovich reviewed previous NCLIS involvement, related 1991 WHCLIS recommendations, and the current situation, and reported on current legislation and current statistical surveys pertinent to libraries, literacy, and educational reform. As always, she noted, the big issue is equity. Commissioner Adamovich expressed her appreciation for the legislative reports prepared by Jane Williams. Copies of the latest report, dated March 18, 1994, were included in the meeting folders.

With respect to the Omnibus Children and Youth Literacy Through Libraries Initiative (a top priority of the 1991 WHCLIS), Commissioner DiPrete asked, "How do we come to closure? What are the issues that we learned through the forums, and how do we communicate what we learned? Could this be an issue for foundation support?"

Other comments included:

- We are starting with children and youth, but keep in mind literacy also means adults and life-long learning activities. (Chairperson Simon)
- When the money trickles down to the local level, it disappears. Legislation must contain a caveat requiring collaboration and cooperation. Only 1 in 10 programs actually works through block grants and/or cooperative programs. There must be a

system of checks and balances that sets up a system for better accountability.  
(Commissioner Gould)

- There must be collaboration and cooperation. (Commissioner Sudduth)
- This Commission could have serious impact in how we provide students with electronic access and on what this means for technical training for teachers.  
(Commissioner DiPrete)
- What are we going to do with the information we have gleaned from the three forums? P.L. 91-345 says we are to advise the President and the Congress....What is the timeline for the bottom line? (Commissioner Lucchino)

Mr. Young stated his intention to prepare a two-page synthesis in the form of a letter or action plan for the President and Congress detailing:

- information obtained from the NCLIS survey of school libraries on funding for libraries serving children and youth,
- the Commission's concern that our Nation's school libraries are not well prepared to provide the resources and support needed to reconnect our young people to learning,
- background information for Congressional reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and the need for federal funding for school libraries,
- the findings and statistics from the NCLIS/ALA 12-state survey of libraries in elementary and secondary schools,
- statements from concerned students, teachers, librarians, and other citizens heard at the three NCLIS regional forums on library and information services for children and youth.

The Commissioners encouraged the preparation of a comprehensive agenda for action for children and youth services, and requested that the draft be prepared for their review and comment by March 30. This tight deadline assures the document's availability for distribution to legislators during ALA's Legislative Week in April. It was further suggested that the same type of action agenda be prepared on the LSCA reauthorization and other pertinent issues. [A copy of the final letter is Attachment II]

It was made clear that this activity is not lobbying, but providing advice based on profound research and study which is consistent with the Commission's primary mission to advise the President and Congress on library and information service policy matters. Commissioners determined that they shall be explicit when communicating with the President and/or the Congress and shall cite relevant bill numbers.

Commissioner Adamovich outlined the following major themes repeated at each of the three Open Forums on Children and Youth Services in Libraries:

- Many libraries now have small computers and key boards for the youngsters;
- Public libraries can work most effectively with Head Start programs, Youth Corps programs, etc.
- Partnerships
  - among agencies
  - among various kinds of libraries
  - among town institutions
  - teacher/librarian/parent
- Special Services, i.e., hospitals, handicapped home-bound, latch key, homeless
- Family/Youth programs, i.e., in the libraries we have (for many years) given programs for children/parent literacy and appreciation
- There are many possibilities for multilingual programs, i.e., in New Hampshire we have bilingual story hours in French and Spanish; in California, Chinese, Spanish, etc.

Commissioner Roberts added his personal concerns in this area:

- Address the needs of children of parents in prison.
- Libraries can offer constructive alternatives to help balance vacuum left by the destruction of the family unit.
- School libraries should have federal funding that is categorical and that provides for a certain percentage of dollars that go directly to support library services.
- 80% of the elected officials who give money to libraries never hear from library users. Library users are not very political. They tend to come and go out of the library and do not usually make a lot of noise. This is the gap between the support for public libraries and the lack of funding. This grassroots network has never been politicized, and this is what's missing. [Commissioner Lucchino expressed complete agreement.]

A draft copy of The Public School Library Media Centers in 12 States -- Report of the NCLIS/ALA Survey, April 1994, supported by NCLIS and ALA and prepared by Mary Jo Lynch, Pamela Kramer, and Ann Weeks, American Library Association, was distributed as C.D. 94-10. Commissioners were asked to review the text in preparation

for formal adoption on Thursday, March 24. Mr. Young stated that the report is intended for quick publication and wide distribution, with a cover letter highlighting specifics. The findings will also be encapsulated into an NCLIS news release to be issued as soon as possible. It is hoped that copies can be distributed soon after National Library Week in late April.

### **NCLIS International Program Activities**

Presenter Tabb provided information on the following NCLIS international program activities:

**The Glenerin Declaration: Toward a Coordinated Policy Agenda** was an NCLIS initiative undertaken in response to the changing role of information in the economy. In 1987, representatives from the U.S., the United Kingdom and Canada signed the Glenerin Declaration on the role of information in the economy. Representatives from NCLIS, the British Library, and the National Library of Canada held an additional follow-up planning meeting in June 1992, which resulted in a working report, "Major Systems of Definition, Measurement, and Classification that Serve as Barriers to Understanding and Exploiting the Role of Information in the Economy," by Forest Woody Horton, Jr.

In June 1993, NCLIS Chairman Michael Farrell and Commissioner DiPrete met with Brian Perry, Head of Research, and Brian Lang, Director of the British Library, in London to discuss the possibility of establishing an international task force on the role of information in the economy. Creation of such a task force would follow up on the 1987 Glenerin Declaration and explore establishment of "new standardized methods for the evaluation of information as an economic resource and for methods to calculate the impact or value of information on the economy".

Following discussions between Mr. Farrell and Mr. Perry to convene an international conference to consider these issues, Mr. Farrell requested that NCLIS contact representatives in additional countries to gauge the interest in the Commission hosting a November 1993 meeting of a task force. Considerable interest was expressed, but time to plan and funds to support such an undertaking were not available, and at the August 1993 meeting, the Commission tabled plans for such a meeting. Mr. Perry recently retired as Director of Research at the British Library, and Mr. Lang is cautiously supportive.

After considerable discussion, it was decided that Chairperson Simon and Messrs. Tabb, Young, and Lorenz would discuss with Robert Wedgeworth, IFLA President, IFLA's interest in carrying on this charge. In response to Commissioner Casey's question, Mr. Lorenz responded that UNESCO has expressed an interest in further developing the Glenerin Declaration.

A copy of the Glenerin Declaration is included in the *NCLIS Briefing Book*, Tab F.

**UNESCO/ICSOC** -- Although the United States is not now a member of UNESCO, the U.S. Government is continuing to support international activities important to the U.S. (previously supported by U.S. contributions to UNESCO), through a program of voluntary contributions and allocations for International Convention and Scientific Organization Contributions (ICSOC).

In 1993, the Commission completed its eighth year of cooperation with the Department of State to monitor and coordinate proposals for ICSOC contributions and to administer ICSOC funding. A total of \$175,000 was awarded in FY 1993 for seven specific projects. However, the allotment for this year, expected to be \$175,000, has not yet been received.

The Administration has cleared an intent for the U.S. to become a member of UNESCO in 1995, but no official U.S. action has been initiated.

**IFLA** -- Vice Chairman Elinor Swaim, Commissioner DiPrete and Mr. Tabb participated in the 59th Conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) in Barcelona, August 18-22, 1993. Vice Chairman Swaim reported that she represented the Commission at a pre-conference seminar, August 15-20, the International Seminar on School Libraries, the first such event in the history of school libraries worldwide. The seminar involved representatives from 26 developing and other countries. Lucille C. Thomas, President, International Association of School Librarianship, presided at the pre-conference. (A full report of this event was given at the November 1993 NCLIS meeting.)

IFLA is holding its 1994 General Conference in Havana, Cuba, August 21-27, 1994. The conference, IFLA's 60th, is the first IFLA Conference to be held in Latin America or the Caribbean region. The theme of the Conference is "Libraries and Social Development." At the American Library Association Annual Conference in 1986, the International Relations Committee proposed a resolution which would have requested that IFLA reconsider its plan to hold the 1994 Conference in Havana, since the existing embargo would severely curtail American participation. Instead, ALA Council adopted a resolution which placed emphasis on changing U.S. policy. The final resolution directed "that the ALA through its various offices seek to have the U.S. policy with respect to travel in Cuba by U.S. citizens changed to permit U.S. delegates to attend the 1994 IFLA Conference."

Given the current US embargo of Cuba and the position of the U.S. State Department on travel to Cuba by U.S. citizens, Chairperson Simon stated, "It is not proper for a NCLIS Member to officially represent NCLIS at the IFLA Conference in Havana, Cuba. If we did so, it would be with a cloud over our head, unless the U.S. policy is changed." Mr. Tabb informed the Members that he will be attending the IFLA Conference in Cuba for the Library of Congress and will provide a report on IFLA activities to the Commission.

He noted that Library of Congress staff are able to travel to Cuba to attend the IFLA conference without violating U.S. policies toward Cuba.

## **Library Statistics Program**

*Statement -- NCLIS has cooperated with the Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) since 1988-89 on the collection, improvement, analysis, dissemination, and use of national statistics relating to libraries. The cooperative program includes an annual census of public library statistics in cooperation with the State library agencies. The five U.S. Territories joined the program in 1993. In addition, the biennial collection and dissemination of academic library data has been improved. Improved school library media data are collected in the quadrennial major NCES School and Staffing Survey. New surveys are also underway of State library agencies and federal libraries and information centers. The cooperative program has also made possible two fast-response sample surveys in the fields of school library media data and public library use of Internet.*

Mr. Lorenz and Ms. Hedge-Reszetar presented background information on the NCLIS/NCES Library Statistics Program (LSP). Realizing in 1980 the need for accurate, up-to-date base-line statistics, definitions, and data on public libraries, the Commission was instrumental in establishing the program. The original component of the LSP is the Federal-State Cooperative System for public library data (FSCS). In March 1993, NCES electronically released the 1991 public library data for the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Public library data from U.S. territories will be added to the States' statistics, beginning with the 1992 data collection cycle. In December 1993 NCES published E.D. Tabs Academic Libraries 1990. This publication represented the cooperative work of NCES, NCLIS, and the ALA Office for Research and Statistics.

Along with the annual data system, FSCS has also developed a universe file of all public libraries in the U.S. that can be used to conduct sample surveys on topics not covered by annual FSCS data collection census surveys. The universe file contains records for each library in each State, specifying such data as governmental relationships, system relationship, population of legal service area, and location and number of branches. This universe file was what made possible the NCLIS Survey Report on Public Libraries and the Internet.

In September 1993 NCLIS and NCES hosted a policy forum to assess the changes in library and information services that are and will be taking place over the next decade and the implications of these changes for the collection, analyses, and use of data relating to library and information services at the national level. A report of the September forum, Library and Information Services Policy: A Forum Report, is available from the NCLIS office. Papers included in the publication focus on key issues that will require policy determination and research in planning for the future of library and information services.

A second forum, Libraries and the National Information Infrastructure (NII), will be held May 16 and 17, 1994, in Washington, DC. The objectives of the library forum are: (1) to share information on the present and potential roles and services of libraries in the development of NII; and (2) to discuss, highlight, and make proposals for related improvements and changes in the measurement of library services that will adequately reflect their value. For the first time, at the specific suggestion of the urban libraries, the participants will also discuss the economic impact of library services in urban areas, as their continued existence and service may well depend upon evidence of their contribution.

The FSCS Steering Committee meets three times a year and holds annual workshops for FSCS State data coordinators.

Funding from the program is transferred from NCES (at an average of \$400,000 annually since FY 1989) by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to support NCLIS consultant and program costs for administering, planning, and supporting this cooperative program. Discussion centered around direct funding from Congress to NCLIS rather than through NCES. Ms. Hedge-Reszetar stated that Congressional staff recently suggested a direct appropriation to NCLIS in the interest of streamlining. She also stated that the Congressional staff are very pleased to have the statistical data which has not been available in the past.

Mr. Lorenz noted the following 1991 WHCLIS recommendation related to library statistics:

Establish Statistical Model for Determining Impact/Needs

That the Department of Education establish a statistical model using existing data to:

- Evaluate the economic, social, educational, cultural, and linguistic impact of libraries and information services on their communities.
- Assess community needs.

This model should be developed to permit use at state and local levels.

At a recent meeting between NCLIS/LSP and NCES staff, NCES was asked to begin developing a plan for implementing the WHCLIS recommendation.

Commissioner DiPrete, NCLIS Commissioner liaison to the FSCS Steering Committee, stated, "Personally, this is one of the most rewarding parts of being on the Commission. We should be very proud of this program." She also offered the following interesting statistic: There are more libraries in the United States than there are McDonald's.

## **Economics of Library Support and the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) Reauthorization**

*Statement -- The Commission should devote priority attention to the economics of library funding and support, in order to identify trends and to establish funding support structures that will provide a sufficient basis for future activities and services. NCLIS should build on the development of studies on the Role of Fees in Supporting Libraries and Information Services in Public and Academic Libraries.*

*Statement -- The Commission should devote priority attention to the reauthorization of LSCA in 1994/95. Building on the Commission-sponsored papers analyzing the public policies underlying the 1991 WHCLIS recommendations, NCLIS should devote priority attention to providing the Congress and the Administration with advice on restructuring and updating LSCA.*

Chairperson Simon, Mr. Young, and Ms. Hedge-Reszetar discussed the results of a recent meeting with David V. Evans, a senior aide to Senator Pell, to discuss LSCA reauthorization. Mrs. Simon also noted that this ranked high in the survey of NCLIS Members' priorities. She added, "This is a magnificent piece of legislation, and I would support -- and put up a fight -- for LSCA's reauthorization.. It requires a major restructuring and updating and should provide equal opportunity of access for every citizen of the United States. Libraries will be the only way to assure that the average citizen can access the information superhighway, and LSCA can play a part in this. This opportunity must be seized. If we lose LSCA, we may never get this opportunity again."

It was pointed out that Congress was assured by the library community that the 1991 WHCLIS would provide a blueprint for the further action and development of library and information services to the people. Ms. Hedge-Reszetar prepared and distributed two reports: (1) "Summary of Actions Taken Toward Implementing the Top 25 Recommendations and Petitions of the 1991 WHCLIS", and (2) "Snapshot and Summary of Actions Taken Toward Implementing the 96 Recommendations and Petitions in the Nine Areas of Major Concern of the 1991 WHCLIS".. The report showed that 56 of the 96 total recommendations had been implemented, in part or in full, which is 54%. The report is also broken down to show where progress toward implementation has been made in each of the nine topic areas of the White House Conference.

Mr. Young stated that LSCA, in a certain sense, is the federal government's contribution to supporting the libraries of the country and asked, "What is the federal government's future role in terms of universal service for the 21st century?" An interassociation Task Force on LSCA Reauthorization has been established with representatives from the American Library Association (ALA), Public Library Association (PLA), Chief Officers



of State Library Agencies (COSLA), the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA), the Urban Libraries Council, (ULC), and NCLIS, along with representatives from the Library Programs office of the U.S. Department of Education. The purpose of the Task Force meetings are to review LSCA programs, history, and accomplishments and to review LSCA issues in preparation for Congressional consideration of LSCA. The next Task Force meeting will be April 20-21 in Washington, DC; the facilitator will be Barbara Robinson. The purpose of this meeting is to shape a LSCA reauthorization document. Chairperson Simon and Commissioners Gould and Roberts will plan to represent NCLIS at the April meeting of the LSCA Reauthorization Task Force.

COSLA has prepared a updated proposal for a major restructuring and updating of a reauthorized LSCA based on the following five principles:

1. The Act is State based;
2. The Act supports programs based on State plans;
3. The Act provides for maximum flexibility;
4. The Act joins the State with the federal government as partners/implementors for change; and
5. The Act should provide for forward funding of a three-year spending authorization.

Further, COSLA proposed the following two titles:

Title A -- Access/Technology: Projects emphasizing continuing education, partnerships, State library agency services, research, standards, planning and evaluation, public library construction, etc.

Title B -- Access/Special Services: Projects emphasizing acquisition or cost-sharing programs for computer systems and telecommunications, etc.

Mr. Young noted that the Commission has a unique role on the Task Force in that NCLIS is not a library association, and that, by law, NCLIS represents the citizens of the country; not libraries, or librarians. In keeping with the Commission's role for advising the Congress on the results of the 1991 WHCLIS recommendations, NCLIS commissioned the following two papers to help summarize the policy recommendations from the Conference in reference to upcoming Congressional consideration of LSCA reauthorization:

- The National Information Infrastructure and the recommendations of the 1991 WHCLIS by R. Taylor Walsh, Washington Information Services Corp.; and
- Toward a Just and Productive Society by Kathleen McCook, Director, Division of Library and Information Science, University of South Florida.

Copies of both papers were included in the NCLIS meeting folders.

Commissioner Roberts offered his belief that, although there is a legitimate need for LSCA, he is not convinced that there is a constitutionally mandated federal role to assure equalization of public library services (neither is there a constitutionally mandated federal role for public education). Federal funds are basically needed for those services that are beyond the capability of the State government.

Commissioner Gould expressed the need for a true maintenance of effort at the local level — not only for the matching dollars to set the program up, but for commitment to carry it on. "How many demonstration projects died the minute the federal dollars were gone?" she asked. She further suggested moving in the direction of local funding increases, rather than federal and State funding, which she called undependable.

Vice Chairman Swaim referred to a 1974 study prepared for NCLIS entitled, Alternatives for Financing the Public Library. The study examined the following five options for developing alternative systems for financing public library services: (1) status quo, no change from the present system; (2) a retrenchment of the federal government financing role; (3) direct federal funding at a 75–90% of total cost level; (4) expanded State funding role to the 75–90% level; and (5) a staged funding program moving toward a balanced intergovernmental funding system. Of the five options examined in the light of library service maintenance and development requirements, the task force proposed that balanced and strengthened intergovernmental system provides the most viable option.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

## **Thursday, March 24, 1994**

### **Public Library Association**

*Chairperson Simon addressed the Public Library Association's (PLA) Fifth National Conference and 50th Anniversary Celebration in World Congress Center, Atlanta. Before a Power Breakfast audience of 450, Chairperson Simon offered inspiration, challenges, and straight-talk in a speech entitled, Power, Leadership, and Political Reality. NCLIS Members and staff attending the Power Breakfast were introduced by Chairperson Simon. A copy of Mrs. Simon's speech is Attachment III.*

### **Public Libraries and the Internet**

Following the Power Breakfast and speech, Chairperson Simon and Mr. Young (Organizer) joined Charles McClure, NCLIS Distinguished Researcher, and Doug Zweigig, NCLIS Consultant, in the featured program presenting the preliminary findings of a sample survey on public library use of the Internet. The implications for future

federal policy development were also discussed. Mrs. Simon opened the session by giving the historical perspective leading up to the survey being conducted.

According to Dr. McClure, 21 percent of the libraries surveyed have Internet access. Motivation for interest in the Internet was attributed to Statewide initiatives, individual library administrators, staff expertise, and other factors. Cost, staff time to develop expertise, and the availability of training were three top factors affecting a library's involvement in Internet projects and experiments. Of the 21 percent of libraries with Internet access, 90 percent do not yet provide public access. In response to a question about whether the federal government should have a role in connecting public libraries to the Internet, 8.5% of responses indicated that they thought the federal government should have NO ROLE in supporting Internet access through public libraries. These findings will have important public policy implications which will be discussed in the project final report, to be completed and published by June 1. The six-month, fast-track survey had an amazing 75% return rate, straight across the board.

After the Internet presentation, the Commission meeting was convened and called to order at 12:00 noon. NCLIS Members and staff attending the two-hour, standing-room-only presentation about the Internet study described it as "extremely well received and informative. A big hit!" A copy of "Issues Concerning Public Library Partnership in the National Information Infrastructure Initiative", distributed to PLA attendees, is Attachment IV.

### **Children and Youth Services in Libraries**

Commissioner Adamovich stated, "Emphasis must be on making the tools available to the children so they are ready to go to school. The years between birth and six are extremely important. Expose children to the excitement of communication and enrich their lives through that communication." Discussion then centered around the importance of the Head Start Program and the National Youth Corps. Commissioners outlined their personal concerns regarding the needs of children with parents in prison, the child's need for adult attention; youth gangs and violence, guns in schools, drug use, multilingual programs, children in hospitals, latch-key and handicapped children, young mothers, and male dropouts.

Commissioners DiPrete and Riddle suggested piggybacking on legislation/programs dealing with children and youth to form partnerships, e.g., Head Start's use of public libraries. Make a pitch for issuing library cards with a birth certificate. Commissioner Casey advocated a total program to keep children up to their academic level.

### **Libraries and the National Information Infrastructure**

*Statement -- The Commission should devote priority attention to the implementation of the 1991 WHCLIS recommendations concerning the National Research and Education*

*Network (NREN). Building on the 1993 Commission-sponsored survey of public library involvement in the Internet, the Commission should devote priority to work on the role of libraries in the National Information Infrastructure.*

Presenter DiPrete provided brief background on NREN, NCLIS' Report to the Office of Science and Technology Policy on Library and Information Services' Roles, and the McClure/Zweizig fast-track national study on Public Libraries and the Internet. She called attention to the draft NCLIS White Paper, Committee on Applications and Technology: Libraries, February 24, 1994, and urged the Commission to focus on the following policy recommendations: (1) copyright; (2) **equity of access**; (3) digital conversion; (4) federal investments in R&D; and (5) coordination and review of standards, with particular emphasis on equity.

Commissioner Gould called for NCLIS to set forth policy regarding libraries as a part of the information superhighway. "If indeed there is a paucity of federal dollars," she stated, "the idea is to come up with policy suggestions, ideas, directions, and/or recommendations that will allow for the reauthorization of LSCA to channel these dollars to where they will do the most good. This is our role and the kind of issue NCLIS should address."

## **Charles Benton**

Chairperson Simon introduced Charles Benton (Chairman Emeritus), NCLIS Chairman from 1970-78, Chairman, Public Media, Inc., Chicago, and President and Chairman of the Benton Foundation, Washington, DC. Mr. Benton served as Chairman of the first White House Conference on Library and Information Services, held November 1979.

Mr. Benton provided information on the March 29 public interest summit -- "Shaping the National Information Infrastructure" -- in Washington, DC, co-sponsored by the Benton Foundation and the Information Infrastructure Task Force. The summit's purpose is to join 500 public interest leaders, Vice President Gore, and key Administration officials to articulate a public interest agenda for the information superhighway. Mr. Benton stated, "This meeting is not just for communications policy groups; it has been designed for public interest leaders from every sector who care about how we will educate our children, revitalize our communities, and communicate our values in the 21st century". NCLIS Members and staff attending the summit will be Chairperson Simon, Commissioner Willard, Mr. Young, and Ms. Hedge-Reszetar.

In discussing the Advisory Council to the U.S. Advisory Council on the National Information Infrastructure (NII), Mr. Benton noted that former NCLIS Executive Director, Toni Carbo Bearman, dean of the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Pittsburgh, is one of 27 citizens whom Commerce Secretary Ronald H. Brown selected in January to be members. Their mission is to advise the Clinton Administration on issues related to the \$250 billion data highway that the President and

Vice President are encouraging communications companies to build. "Work closely with Dr. Bearman to solicit advice on targets of opportunity for NCLIS."

Mr. Benton advised that the U.S. Department of Commerce's Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure Assistance Program (TIIAP), has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for \$26 million created to advance the goals of the NII initiative. Grants under the TIIAP will be awarded to support projects which most effectively:

1. Enhance the delivery of social services, such as education and health care, and
2. Support the formation of an advanced nationwide, telecommunications and information infrastructure incorporating the widest variety of information technologies.

Mr. Benton urged that the leaders in the library and information science field be made aware of this RFP, calling it a wonderful opportunity for library partnerships, and urging libraries to apply. The closing date for submission of all TIIAP applications is May 12, 1994. Mr. Lorenz informed Mr. Benton that staff has a copy of the RFP.

Mr. Benton also stated his belief that "NCLIS has the leverage, background, and credentials to make a difference in the National Performance Review, Creating a Government that Works Better and Costs Less." He also noted that 150 years ago this May, the first Morse Code message was sent.

Chairperson Simon thanked Mr. Benton for his informative comments.

### **WHCLIS Analysis**

By general agreement, the following reports will be published and distributed:

- The National Information Infrastructure and the recommendations of the 1991 WHCLIS, R. Taylor Walsh.
- Toward a Just and Productive Society, Kathleen McCook.
- "Snapshot and Summary of Actions Taken Toward Implementing the 96 Recommendations and Petitions in the Nine areas of Major Concern of the 1991 WHCLIS", and "Snapshot and Summary of Actions Taken Toward Implementing the Top 25 Recommendations and Petitions in the Nine Areas of Major Concern of the 1991 WHCLIS", Mary Alice Hedge-Reszetar [As an appendix.]

It was suggested that the summary of WHC actions be updated at least every two years, when Congress changes.

The Members also agreed to publish the report of the NCLIS/ALA survey, Public School Library Media Centers in 12 States. It was suggested that Mr. Young prepare an executive summary or cover letter to President Clinton to accompany the report. Mr. Casey asked that the meeting minutes reflect his abstention from approval to publish this report because of his service on the ALA Council.

### **NCLIS Annual Report**

A copy of the draft NCLIS Annual Report, 1992-93, was included in the *NCLIS Administrative Manual*. Suggestions for revisions, additions, etc., should be sent to Jane Williams by Friday, April 8. There is a confusion on the exact date the report is due, and staff was instructed to clarify the misunderstanding.

### **Survey of NCLIS Members' Priorities**

Because of the amount of interaction, questions, and answers on the above programs, the Members decided that a second survey should be conducted to determine if the Commission's priorities remained the same.

### **Conclusion**

The Members unanimously agreed that the orientation was extremely informative, in-depth, and worthwhile, and applauded the staff on their performance. NCLIS briefings have been held in the past, but this was the first two-day NCLIS meeting devoted entirely to briefing all Commissioners, on board and incoming.

Chairperson Simon expressed her appreciation to the Members for their attendance, advice, enthusiasm, and energy.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

July 7, 1994

## **Attachments**

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NCLIS Official Liaisons**
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United States  
National Commission on  
Libraries and Information Science

COMMISSION DOCUMENT #94- 04

April 1, 1994

TO: NCLIS Members  
FROM: Peter R. Young  
NCLIS Executive Director  
SUBJECT: NCLIS Official Liaisons

During the NCLIS Orientation Meeting in Atlanta, March 22-24, 1994, Commissioners discussed the need to develop a listing of possible NCLIS liaisons. To enable us to develop the most up-to-date list, please provide a listing of your current membership in library and information science-related agencies, associations, organizations, and/or groups. In addition, if known, please include the meeting dates in 1994 and 1995.

For your information, listed below are the various organizations to which NCLIS had previous liaisons.

Advisory Council on Education Statistics (ACES)  
American Association of Law Librarians (AALL)  
American Library Association (ALA)  
American Society of Information Science (ASIS)  
Association of Research Libraries (ARL)  
Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA)  
Coalition for Networked Information (CNI)  
Council on Library Resources (CLR)  
Friends of Libraries of the USA (FOLUSA)  
Information Industry Association (IIA)  
International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)  
Medical Library Association (MLA)  
National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)  
National Commission for Preservation and Access  
National Forum on Information Literacy  
Network Advisory Committee (NAC)  
Special Libraries Association (SLA)  
Urban Libraries Council (ULC)  
White House Conference on Library and Information Services Taskforce (WHCLIST)

If possible, may we hear from you by April 15, 1994? Thank you.





United States  
National Commission on  
Libraries and Information Science

April 11, 1994

To: NCLIS Commissioners

From: Jeanne H. Simon *Jeanne*  
NCLIS Chairperson

Re: Letters to selected members of Congress on the Enactment of Goals 2000,  
Educate America Act

I want like to thank you for your contributions on the letter that was sent on Friday, April 8, 1994 to selected members of Congress. A copy of this letter is attached reflecting the suggestions submitted by Commissioners. I will keep you informed of follow-up action and any future developments relating to this very important reauthorization action.

Attachment



United States  
National Commission on  
Libraries and Information Science

8 April 1994

Dear :

The Members of the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) are excited and encouraged by the enactment of Goals 2000: Educate America Act. This landmark legislation defines Federal roles and responsibilities for school reform to ensure every student a world-class education. Goals 2000 aims to prepare the Nation for the 21st century.

America's children and youth must have library resources and services that respond to their needs if we are to implement the systemic changes required to achieve the National Education Goals. However, to realize the Goals 2000 vision of educational excellence and equity, our elementary and secondary school libraries must improve. The National Commission is concerned that our Nation's school libraries are not well prepared to provide the resources and support needed to reconnect our young people to learning.

In sharing some of the results of our recent studies and findings, the Commission is providing background for Congressional reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). This five-year reauthorization of ESEA must help libraries in elementary and secondary schools to meet the high performance standards set by Goals 2000: Educate America Act. To achieve the National Education Goals, ESEA must include the Library Media Program included in H.R. 6 Title II, Part C as part of the reauthorization. Proposals for establishing instructional innovation and for classroom technology programs, along with targeted assistance for school library media center resources and services included in S.266, should be incorporated into the reauthorized ESEA.

Since the 1991 White House Conference on Library and Information Services (WHCLIS) focused attention on children and youth literacy, the National Commission has learned some disturbing realities about school libraries. Our findings about the condition of libraries serving children and youth have a direct relation to legislation defining the Federal role in support of elementary and secondary education.

The Commission has found that libraries are not prepared to support a transition from "A Nation at Risk" to a nation of learners. Librarians from public and school libraries are working closely together in response to recommendations from the 1991 WHCLIS and from the 1984 Alliance for Excellence: Librarians Respond to A Nation at Risk. They are sharing resources and linking school and public libraries. But their success is limited by lack of support. Libraries and educational programs must be integrated if we are to prepare all children to participate fully as workers, parents, and citizens. However, Federal leadership, support, and assistance are essential if these efforts are to be successful.

If libraries serving elementary and secondary school students and teachers fail to receive Federal assistance under ESEA, then the disturbing reality of current conditions will block achievement of high-quality educational standards. In a 12-state survey of libraries in elementary and secondary schools performed in late 1993, the Commission found that:

- many school libraries are poorly equipped to support instruction
- ½ of elementary school libraries buy less than one book/student/year
- ½ of secondary school libraries buy less than .33 book/student/year
- almost no school libraries have access to the Internet computer network
- there is wide variance in average annual funding for school libraries
  - elementary school libraries receive \$15 to \$58,874 per year
  - secondary school libraries receive \$155 to \$100,810 per year

In addition to these disturbing findings, the National Commission has also listened to students, teachers, librarians, and other concerned citizens from around the country. A total of 77 concerned individuals representing 17 states provided oral or written comments to the Commission in the last year. At Commission-sponsored forums on library and information services for children and youth in Boston, Massachusetts, Des Moines, Iowa, and Sacramento, California conducted during 1993, the Commission heard the following themes:

- **Libraries connect youth to lifelong learning**

*"To prepare our students for life in a future characterized by change, we must teach them to become better observers, appliers, and evaluators of ideas and information. A key to what schools must be doing is to help students learn to use their minds well. Research shows that students involved in their own learning, being active participants in the learning process, learn more and retain more than passive learners. So information literacy is a means of personal empowerment."*

-- Karlene Garn, Ames (Iowa) High School

- **Libraries connect education to technology**

*"Libraries, both public and school, are the gateways through which children from all walks of life can learn the technologies and techniques that will be as important to them as reading books has been to us and our parents."*

-- Marshall Keys, Executive Director  
New England Library Network (NELINET), Inc.

- **Libraries connect families to learning**

*"When we talk about serving preschool children, we have to think about where the children are. Preschool children aren't able to get out and come to the library on their own. They depend on adults. So, we need to think about those adults, those parents and caregivers."*

-- Carol Elbert, Ames (Iowa) Public Library

*"On the issue of youth in crisis. While a library wrestles with an agenda of budget cuts, the shelf life of our children and the families who must support them is expiring."*

-- Shelly Quezada, Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners

- **Libraries connect all aspects of our communities**

*"...I go to 37 different child-care centers in the space of a month. I visit each of these child-care centers biweekly and I present programs at these centers....The centers include day-cares, preschoolers, and Headstarts....Youth are truly the future of our country and it is essential that at the earliest age we instill in them a love of libraries and reading."*

--David Ashcraft, Des Moines (Iowa) Public Library

*"Public libraries should not have to compete with school libraries for the same dollar. Rather, there needs to be enough money allocated so that both the public library and the school library have adequate moneys to purchase materials to answer their patrons' questions."*

-- Bonnie O'Brien, President, Massachusetts Library Association

- **Libraries connect students to the global community**

*"I am here to speak to you on behalf of all children who need a library to study. I have used Del Paso Heights Library since I was in preschool, six years ago, because I don't have a place to study at home. I use the library to do my research paper, reading and learning with the computer. I have found that the library is a great help for my education, but there are many things that are still missing for us children. The children's library is in need of improvement; that means we need more children's resource books, more space, more hours and more help in the library. I feel upset, poor and lost when I cannot find a book that I needed to read for my school work. I cannot get somebody to help me read. The library has to be closed sometimes because no money to open it....please help our library as to help us children learn, grow and become a beautiful American. Please tell our President for us. I will be waiting to hear from him."*

--Lomholhn Vue, Fourth-grade Student  
North Avenue School, Sacramento, CA

Thank you for your attention to these concerns. The Commission will be publishing a full report of findings from the recent survey of public school library media centers in 12 states later this spring. I would like to hand-deliver the report to you.

Sincerely,

Jeanne H. Simon  
Chairperson

Public Library Association  
Fifth National Conference  
**PLA Power Breakfast**

Thursday  
24 March 1994  
7:00 - 8:30 am

Ballroom  
Atlanta World Congress Center



"Power, Leadership, and Political Reality"

Jeanne H. Simon

Chairperson

U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science  
(25 Minute talk - 7:50 - 8:15 am)

Thank you, Pat Woodrum, for that introduction. Pat, I have to say, your picture on the cover of the March issue of Library Journal is fantastic. If the confidence, vibrancy, and style reflected in that photograph reflect the future of public librarianship, we are in great shape!

It's wonderful to be here this morning and to see so many friends from around the country in Atlanta. Over the last several months I have met so many new and old friends in the library community, it's almost like a reunion. And thank you, Susan Goldberg Kent, for inviting me here and for giving me the chance to talk about power, leadership, and political realities.

This PLA Conference is Atlanta's dry run for the 1996 Olympics! The Conference program reflects the tremendous energy, creativity, and imagination of all those who worked so hard to plan this Fifth National PLA Conference. It has Olympic energy, intensity, and drama. With Conference program titles like: "Blow up the Librarian," "Naked ladies and angry mothers" "Hard hats and Band-Aids," "Management by magic," "Is there a public library in the future?" and "God is in the details," we certainly are in for some interesting challenges over the next several days!

The National Commission is excited about being with you to help celebrate PLA's 50th anniversary and to plan for the future. The Commission will be celebrating our 25th year in 1995 and we are looking forward to working with you to make it a year to remember. Please meet the persons who make NCLIS run so well:

Peter R. Young, NCLIS Executive Director  
Jane Williams, NCLIS Research Associate  
Kim Miller, Staff Assistant  
and Barbara Whiteleather, Staff Assistant

Let me introduce you to the Members of the National Commission who are here in Atlanta for an orientation meeting this week:

Shirley Gray Adamovich (from Durham, New Hampshire)  
Daniel W. Casey (from Syracuse, New York)  
Carol DiPrete (from Bristol, Rhode Island)  
Norman Kelinson (from Davenport Iowa)  
Kay W. Riddle (from Denver, Colorado)  
Elinor H. Swaim (from Salisbury, North Carolina)  
Barbara Taylor (from Germantown, Maryland)  
and Winston Tabb (representing the Librarian of Congress, Jim Billington)

In addition, let me introduce five new Members recently appointed to the Commission by President Clinton:

Martha B. Gould (from Reno, Nevada)  
Frank J. Lucchino (from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)  
Dr. Bobby L. Roberts (from Little Rock, Arkansas)  
Gary N. Sudduth (from Minneapolis, Minnesota)  
and Robert S. Willard (from Dayton, Ohio)

With the appointment of one additional Commissioner, which we expect very soon, NCLIS membership will be complete. This small and independent "micro" Federal agency advises the President and the Congress on library and information services policy and plans. Which is our mission according to Public Law 91-345.

President Clinton designated me to be NCLIS Chairperson last November following my confirmation by the Senate as a member of the Commission. My appointment was no accident. I actively sought it. I worked to be on the National Commission because I believe that it plays a critical role in assuring a healthy and vibrant future for America's libraries.

I also believe that my job as Chairperson is to do everything I can to assist you, the leaders of the public library community, in your work to help every American reach his or her potential. I know that now more than ever, there is a growing need for good library service in both urban and rural areas. I know this from personal observation and listening to concerned persons, both librarians and users. I also know this from spending a great deal of my life supporting public libraries.

I intend for the Commission to develop a proactive, powerful, and dynamic agenda in addressing opportunities and challenges of an increasingly critical magnitude. To accomplish this role, to assure that NCLIS provides the best possible advice to our elected leaders, we need to cooperate, to reach out and provide mutual support, and to strengthen our partnerships with many different organizations, including PLA. The

wealthiest society in the history of the world will only continue as a great Nation in the future if we continue to provide libraries with the support they need to meet the needs of all the people.

Last December, when Susan Goldberg Kent invited me to speak at this "Power Breakfast," she said that PLA was looking for "inspiration, challenges and 'straight talk' about political realities." I'm going to follow Susan's suggestions this morning, but in reverse order. I'm first going to offer you some forthright talk about political realities.

## I. Political Realities:

We all know that today's world is a radically different place than when PLA was established fifty years ago. The changes between then and now reflect an altered political landscape. But a dominant feature of today's reality is the Federal budget deficit. It casts a dark shadow on every aspect of life in America. The President's 1995 budget request that was sent to Congress last month proposes cuts in domestic spending programs, including support for libraries. While reducing the deficit is of critical National importance, we must also find solutions to the challenges facing America's libraries.

Listen while I read to you from President Clinton's response to a question at a Satellite Meeting with California Newspaper Publishers last month (12 February 1994):

*Q. "Mr. President, my question goes to the crisis in our library system. If my information is correct, during our recession we've been closing libraries in this country at the rate of one a day. And by contrast, during the Great Depression, I don't believe one library was closed. This is a natural question from a group of people that love the printed word more than most, and many of us are involved in private initiatives to help our city and country libraries. But I wonder what you might do, sir."*

*THE PRESIDENT: "Well, given the problems we have in the federal budget, and given the fact that we need to use as much money as we can for education and training and new technologies, I would think that any federal help to libraries would have to come in the form of some initiative that we have in furtherance of that, like an adult literacy initiative.*

*I do think the library system in this country will be dramatically helped by being able to hook into the information superhighway, and we've already made that commitment. I think that will make a difference. But I'm afraid that the lion's share of that work will have to be done at the state and local level.*



*I know when I was governor in my former life, we really worked hard to get more state help for libraries because we knew that local government simply could not afford to do it. In the 1980's, when so much federal spending was cut back and so many new responsibilities were put on local governments, it was very tough.*

*I have found that most voters, when given the chance, if they know they're dedicating the money to do it, will vote to save their local library. And what we did at home was to give them the opportunity to do that.*

*I will look into it. If you have any other specific ideas, I'd be glad to look into them. But I think the literacy mission of libraries and the information superhighway are the two main areas in which the federal government can probably be of help."*

The policies that appear to underlie the President's response make several things clear about Federal, State and local responsibilities for supporting libraries in the future:

- 1.) Federal programs will concentrate on education, training, and new technologies;
- 2.) Federal support is strongly justified only for literacy and information superhighway programs;
- 3.) States need to increase support for libraries in order to make up for declines in local and Federal support.

These policy positions do not seem to include Federal programs to support library construction, acquisition of collection resources, development of new information services, or professional librarian education. The political reality of our Federal budgeting climate demands that the library community examine the values, principles, and policies underlying historic Federal roles for libraries.

We may need to reposition, rejustify, and restructure the reasons that Federal support is required to enhance and extend library service effectiveness. Especially in light of the upcoming reauthorization of the Library Services and Construction Act, new proposals for specific ways that Federal action can address library program development are essential.

Along with budget caps and spending cuts, the Federal government is undergoing "re-invention." The National Performance Review (NPR), published last Fall, proposes changes that will create a government that works better and costs less by streamlining the bureaucracy. NPR proposals aim to make the government "customer friendly." By focusing on customer service, Federal agencies will compete for their

customers' business. Wherever feasible, government monopolies will be dismantled including those that print public documents.

The political reality is that the Federal government is experiencing change. This change is affecting what Federal programs do and how they perform. The public library community will experience the impact of these changes. Although we have yet to feel the full and direct impact of these changes, however, we may find that the changes look more like challenges than opportunities.

## II. Challenges:

Many in the library community were encouraged to hear President Clinton mention books and libraries in his State of the Union Address. The President said:

*"And the Vice President is right: we must also work with the private sector to connect every classroom, every clinic, every LIBRARY, every hospital in America into a national information superhighway by the year 2000."*

I believe that this is the first time the "L" word has been used in a Presidential State of the Union Address. The President's strong statement came following Vice President Gore's remarks at UCLA in early January, outlining the Administration's vision for creating the National Information Infrastructure.

In remarks at the Television Academy, the Vice President challenged corporate executives from the telephone, cable, and computer industries to

*"...connect all of our classrooms, all of our LIBRARIES, and all of our hospitals and clinics by the year 2000. We must do this to realize the full potential of information to educate, to save lives, provide access to health care and lower medical costs."*

With the commitment of the Administration, the support of Congress, and the participation of the communications, cable, and media industries, we could well see significant advancement for libraries in the next decade. Or, we could see the role of public libraries diminish with the advent of a commercial multimedia interactive information marketplace. The challenge is to understand not only what role public libraries should play in this new information superhighway, it is also to identify what the Federal role is in support of public libraries in the information age.

Librarian of Congress Jim Billington expressed the challenge well last month. He said:

*"Policy Makers must determine how to sustain, in the electronic age, the Democratic and equal access to information that free public libraries have provided in the age of print."*

Many in the library community express concern about the role of libraries in the "information superhighway." Some are calling for public libraries to become actively involved in the transition to electronic information services. Ray Kurzweil has written recently about virtual books and virtual libraries in his Futurecast column in Library Journal. He predicts that

*"As we go through the first decade of the next millennium, the lending of virtual books will develop from a leading edge curiosity to the mainstream of library services....We will still need library buildings during the period in which paper books are sliding into antiquity. Beyond that, however, we need to examine some trends in a related technology: communications....With books in virtual form, transmitted readily through the communications ether, the emerging virtual library will not need to be housed in a building"*<sup>1</sup>

On the other hand, Michael Gorman (Dean of Library Services, California State University, Fresno) expresses a very different perspective on the future of libraries in the information age in a recent article in Library Journal entitled "The Treason of the Learned: the Real Agenda of Those Who Would Destroy Libraries and Books." He writes about what he calls one class of enemy of the academic library:

*"The technovandals want to use technology to break up the culture of learning and, in a weird mixture of Nineties cybervision and Sixties radicalism, to replace that world with a howling wilderness of unstructured, unrelated gobbets of 'information' and random images in which the hapless individual wanders without direction or sense of value."*<sup>2</sup>

John Brademas, President of New York University, and author of P.L. 91-345, writes in his 1989 book In Praise of Libraries:

*"Libraries and librarians today, whether in the U.S., Britain, France, or Spain, are operating on the frontiers of automation and technology. Yet complex as the new library world has become, libraries remain fundamentally about readers, writers, and books."*

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<sup>1</sup>Kurzweil, Raymond. "The Virtual Library" in Library Journal March 15, 1993, p. 54.

<sup>2</sup>Gorman, Michael. "The Treason of the Learned: the Real Agenda of those who would Destroy Libraries and Books" in Library Journal February 15, 1994, p. 130.

Raymond's and Michael's different opinions expose a clash between the culture of the book and the cyberspace culture of the information superhighway. Which culture should the Federal government support and encourage? Should we use Federal dollars for construction of library buildings and the purchase of books, or should we support new Federal programs for buying computers for libraries to connect to the Internet? Are Federal programs justified for both book libraries and electronic libraries? The challenge is to forge the library future -- to create the vision and to live the future.

The National Commission is actively considering these issues. Most immediately, we are working to define the Federal government's role in providing the library "on ramp" to the information superhighway. Through the results of a sample National survey of public libraries use of the Internet, we hope to provide advice to policy makers about the role of the Federal government in assuring public library involvement in the information superhighway. Let me extend an invitation to you to attend the Commission's program later this morning where Douglas Zweizig and Chuck McClure will present the preliminary results of the survey.

### III. Inspiration:

Even for a power breakfast, you may already have had enough "challenge," so let me proceed to "inspiration."

One person who is an inspiration, not a challenge, is John Berry III, Editor-in-Chief of Library Journal. He was in fine form in his stirring editorial in the March 1 issue of LJ, which he titled, "Faith in a Library Future." He asks, "Why this preaching?" Then he answers himself:

*"Because this editor is fed up with the arguing. I'm ready to join librarians to assert loudly the future of the library. It is precisely because that future will surely be in a plugged-in, electronic, highly individualized society that libraries will be crucial."*

*It will always be our job to preserve the book. It will also be our new job to preserve the community--the public reading and public viewing, the gathering of people or scholars to use and share all cultures. The library's role as the preserver of community and the public media and arts -- print, film, video, sound, and digital -- will make the library the central edifice in a plugged-in world.*

*It will be the only agency that, by design, serves our highest aspirations as a society and a community by providing the entire record to each individual alone or as part of any group, in as much or as little depth as that individual wants.*

*When we unite, specify, and assert that vision for the library, it will come true."*

The choice in the future is not between books and electronic information. The choice is between a civilized society and chaos. To paraphrase the famous 1992 Campaign slogan:

It isn't that "It's the Economy, Stupid."  
Nor is it that "It's the Conduit, Stupid."  
Neither is it that "It's the Content, Stupid."

Rather, "It's the Context, Stupid." The future belongs not to those who are attempting to control the content, the conduit, or the marketplace. The future will belong to those who control the filtering, searching, and sense-making tools that we all will rely upon to navigate through the expanses of cyberspace. This context, when added to information, produces knowledge. It is the critical resource that libraries and librarians must bring to the newly emerging technologies, just as our predecessors brought to the printed word.

In Washington recently many people have quoted the late Tip O'Neill in saying that "All politics is local." You may find it surprising that I choose to end with that quote. I've lived in Washington since 1975 because my husband was first a U.S. representative and now is a U.S. senator. However, believe me when I say that I **know** he was elected locally.

So, this morning I ask you, at this National conference, to think very locally. It is back home that inspiration will be made real. Gather ideas and inspiration from your colleagues here. Enjoy the ideas and inspiration and take them with you. But remember, this conference experience will be successful if it makes a difference in how you think and act when you return home.

Use the power you have in this organization to get "grass roots" support, to communicate with Members of Congress, your State Legislatures, your "Friends of Libraries." We will be successful if our grandchildren experience the empowerment of competent, effective, and dynamic public libraries when our successors gather to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the PLA in the year 2044.

Thank you and power to the library!